

There is one specimen in the National Museum collection that doubtless deserves special mention in this connection. The label thereof reads as follows :

"66,643. *Geothlypis trichas* ♂ ad. No. 104. Cleveland, Ohio, May 11, 1874. J. S. Newberry, M. D. Large testicles stated to have been found. Given to Smithsonian Institution by E. Coues."

Taken by itself the label presents nothing remarkable, but tied to the leg of this particular bird it affords us one of those by no means uncommon ornithological puzzles, which, in the language of Dundreary, "no fellow can find out." The bird is in the full spring plumage of the *female*, without a single trace of black or ash about the head.—CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM, *Washington, D. C.*

**Unseasonable Birds on Long Island.**—1. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*.—On December 30, 1882, while passing along one of the streets of our village—Fort Hamilton—my attention was arrested by a bird note, familiar yet strangely out of place at that season—none other than the characteristic cry of the Catbird. I caught sight of the bird a moment later, hopping about in the branches of a lilac bush in a private yard, not a dozen feet from me, so that there was no error in the identification.

2. *Oidema perspicillata*.—During a week's stay at Montauk Point, from July 15 to July 21, 1883, I saw on several occasions a flock of 'Sea Coots' floating on the ocean about 250 or 300 yards from shore. To which of the three species they belonged I could not tell. On June 12, 1884, I saw a flock of at least fifty 'Sea Coots' in the Lower New York Bay, off Coney Island, but the distance was too great to determine the species; but on the 20th of the same month, while sailing in Gravesend Bay, about two miles below Fort Hamilton, we came upon three individuals of *O. perspicillata*. We ran down to within 20 yards of them before they took wing, but as the gun had been left at home, in deference to the ladies, I was unable to secure them.

3. *Harelda glacialis*.—While yatching in North Oyster Bay, Long Island Sound, on July 12, 1884, I shot a fine male 'Old Wife.' The bird was apparently well and uninjured, and was swimming about in a lively manner as we approached. My first shot either missed or only wounded it slightly, for it instantly rose and was flying off rapidly when I killed it with my second barrel. I skinned it, and could not find any marks of old wounds or other injuries. It was in full plumage and differed from the adults usually taken in this latitude by the greater amount of orange brown on the back and scapulars. The dark zone on the breast was also of a lighter shade than usual.—DE L. BERIER. 52 *Broadway, New York City.*

**Two Additions to the Texas Avi-fauna.**—I have taken in Cook County, Texas, the following: *Syrnium nebulosum alleni*, *Turdus fuscescens salicicola*.—G. S. RAGSDALE, *Gainsville, Texas.*

**A Partial Albino Hermit Thrush** (*Turdus aonalaschkae pallasi*).—I have a male of this species taken in this vicinity October 27, 1885, which has the top of the head and the back light gray. Below white, the spots on the breast being fairly distinct. Tail and the primaries and secondaries fawn color.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

**On two Abnormally Colored Specimens of the Bluebird** (*Sialia sialis*).—The United States National Museum has, through the generosity of their respective collectors, come into possession of two adult males of the common Bluebird which differ so much from the normal plumage of that species as to be worthy of special description.

No. 91,303, ♂ ad., collected at Escanaba, Mich., June 6, 1883, by Mr. Wm. Palmer, Washington, D. C., has the color of the upper parts agreeing exactly with that of more richly colored examples in the normal plumage (precisely as in No. 63,366, from Massachusetts, for example\*), the tint approaching very nearly to a pure ultramarine. The coloration of the anterior underparts, however, is quite abnormal, all of the cinnamon-colored feathers of the breast, etc., being blue beneath the surface, the feathers of the sides of the breast being chiefly or entirely blue, the latter color largely prevailing, the uniform cinnamon being confined to the middle of the breast and lower central portion of the throat. The posterior lower parts are white, however, as in true *sialis*, and not bluish, as in *mexicana*, and the bill is stout as in *sialis*, the measurements being quite normal.†

No. 107,218, collected in Baltimore Co., Maryland, March 31, 1885, by Mr. A. H. Jennings, of Baltimore, is abnormal only in the color of the upper parts, which are of a very rich uniform azure blue, almost precisely the same shade as in *S. arctica*, but even rather more greenish than in many examples of the latter species. Viewed in a particular light, many of the feathers, especially the rectrices and larger scapulars, show very regular and rather distinct darker bars, or 'water marks.' The shade of blue is quite identical with that of the *S. azurea*, the color being rather richer; but it is a notable fact that the cinnamon-color of the breast, etc., is as intense as in any specimen of normal *S. sialis*, and not of that pale ochrey tint always characteristic of *azurea*. The measurements of this specimen are as follows: Wing, 3.95; tail, 2.70; culmen, .65; tarsus, .80.

In order to show how little variation there is in this species according to locality, I present herewith measurements of several Florida specimens (three of them breeding birds) and examples from extreme northern localities. As to color, it may be remarked that none of the Florida exam-

\* Many examples of *S. mexicana* are not appreciably different in shade of blue from the richer colored specimens of *S. sialis*.

† [There is, and has been for many years, a specimen of *Sialia sialis* (No. 9105, ♂, Newtonville, Mass., March 10, 1868,) in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge, which agrees very closely with the specimen here described by Mr. Ridgway, the whole throat being blue, and all the cinnamon-colored feathers of the breast blue beneath the surface, the blue showing prominently on the slightest disarrangement of the feathers.—J. A. ALLEN.]